

§ 206.13 Standards and reviews.

(a) The Associate Director shall establish program standards and assess the efficiency and effectiveness of programs administered under the Stafford Act by conducting annual reviews of the activities of Federal agencies and State and local governments involved in major disaster or emergency response efforts.

(b) In carrying out this provision, the Associate Director or Regional Director may direct Federal agencies to submit reports relating to their disaster assistance activities. The Associate Director or the Regional Director may request similar reports from the States relating to these activities on the part of State and local governments. Additionally, the Associate Director or Regional Director may conduct independent investigations, studies, and evaluations as necessary to complete the reviews.

[55 FR 2288, Jan. 23, 1990; 55 FR 5458, Feb. 15, 1990]

§ 206.14 Criminal and civil penalties.

(a) *Misuse of funds.* Any person who knowingly misapplies the proceeds of a loan or other cash benefit obtained under this Act shall be fined an amount equal to one and one-half times the misapplied amount of the proceeds or cash benefit.

(b) *Civil enforcement.* Whenever it appears that any person has violated or is about to violate any provision of this Act, including any civil penalty imposed under this Act, the Attorney General may bring a civil action for such relief as may be appropriate. Such action may be brought in an appropriate United States district court.

(c) *Referral to Attorney General.* The Associate Director shall expeditiously refer to the Attorney General for appropriate action any evidence developed in the performance of functions under this Act that may warrant consideration for criminal prosecution.

(d) *Civil penalty.* Any individual who knowingly violates any order or regulation issued under this Act shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000 for each violation.

§ 206.15 Recovery of assistance.

(a) *Party liable.* Any person who intentionally causes a condition for which Federal assistance is provided under this Act or under any other Federal law as a result of a declaration of a major disaster or emergency under this Act shall be liable to the United States for the reasonable costs incurred by the United States in responding to such disaster or emergency to the extent that such costs are attributable to the intentional act or omission of such person which caused such condition. Such action shall be brought in an appropriate United States District Court.

(b) *Rendering of care.* A person shall not be liable under this section for costs incurred by the United States as a result of actions taken or omitted by such person in the course of rendering care or assistance in response to a major disaster or emergency.

§ 206.16 Audit and investigations.

(a) Subject to the provisions of chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code, and 44 CFR part 14, relating to requirements for single audits, the Associate Director or Regional Director shall conduct audits and investigations as necessary to assure compliance with the Stafford Act, and in connection therewith may question such persons as may be necessary to carry out such audits and investigations.

(b) For purposes of audits and investigations under this section, FEMA or State auditors, the Governor's Authorized Representative, the Regional Director, the Associate Director, and the Comptroller General of the United States, or their duly authorized representatives, may inspect any books, documents, papers, and records of any person relating to any activity undertaken or funded under the Stafford Act.

§ 206.17 Effective date.

These regulations are effective for all major disasters or emergencies declared on or after November 23, 1988.